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Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations: cooperation between the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization

Letter dated 28 June 2011 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Astana Declaration of the tenth anniversary of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (see annex), which was signed by the Presidents of the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan at the meeting of the Council of the Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization held in Astana on 15 June 2011.

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 122 (v).

(*Signed*) **Li** Baodong
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China

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Annex to the letter dated 28 June 2011 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Chinese and Russian]

Astana Declaration on the tenth anniversary of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization

The Heads of States members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (hereinafter "SCO" or "the Organization"), pursuant to the meeting of the Council of Heads of State held in Astana on 15 June 2011 to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the establishment of SCO, hereby declare the following:

I

The decision taken ten years ago to establish SCO was a historic strategic step. During this period, SCO has become a universally recognized and authoritative multilateral association that actively promotes peace and development in the region, and effectively counters contemporary challenges and threats.

The choice made by SCO member States at the start of the twenty-first century to work towards deepening good-neighbourliness, friendships and partnerships in the region serves as a commendable example to the international community of how to achieve tangible and significant results in the area of joint development.

The States members of the Organization, complying strictly with the principles and provisions of the SCO Charter and the Treaty for Long-term Good-Neighbourly Relations, Friendship and Cooperation of the States members of SCO, have laid a solid foundation for the effective functioning of SCO in order to collectively ensure peace, security and stability, as well as the development of multilateral cooperation across the SCO region in political, economic, humanitarian and other spheres.

II

In the course of ten years, SCO has successfully transitioned from institutionalization to the establishment of effective mechanisms for cooperation in various fields.

1. The high level of mutual trust inherent at regular meetings of the main SCO bodies (the Council of Heads of State, the Council of Heads of Government and the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs) ensures that concerted action is taken on the most important aspects of the Organization's work, while mutually advantageous cooperation is fostered in various fields.

2. Effective security cooperation has been established to counter terrorism, separatism and extremism, illicit trafficking in narcotics and weapons, and transnational organized crime. As part of the collective efforts to combat new threats and challenges, mechanisms have been created for regular meetings to be held at the level of Secretaries of Security Councils, General Prosecutors, Chief Justices, ministers of defence, emergency situations, internal affairs and public security, and heads of anti-drug agencies.

3. Long-term trade and economic programmes and plans have been adopted with a view to ensuring the socio-economic development of SCO member States. Meetings held by the ministers responsible for foreign economic and foreign trade activities, transport, agriculture and finance, and by the chairmen of national banks, are contributing towards this goal. The work of the Business Council and the Interbank Association is on the way to becoming operationalized.

4. Cultural and humanitarian cooperation has improved, contributing towards a spiritual rapprochement and an intercultural dialogue among the peoples of SCO member States. Cooperation is increasing in the meetings of ministers of culture, health, science and technology, and also within the SCO Forum.

5. The standing organs (the Secretariat in Beijing and the Regional Counter-Terrorist Structure in Tashkent) have been functioning effectively and are playing an important role in the practical implementation of the agreements and arrangements concluded within the framework of the Organization. The adoption of the SCO rules of procedure and the staff regulations for SCO standing bodies has helped to systematize the Organization's work.

6. SCO demonstrates an openness to cooperation with other States, and with international and regional organizations. Its multifaceted cooperation includes observer States (India, Iran, Mongolia and Pakistan) and dialogue partners (Belarus and Sri Lanka). Partnerships have been established with the United Nations, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Eurasian Economic Community, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and the Economic Cooperation Organization.

III

The Heads of State note with satisfaction the broadly consistent approaches adopted by SCO member States in addressing global and regional challenges, and confirm their readiness to cooperate closely on the international stage.

Significant changes and fundamental transformations are taking place in international relations. The realities of contemporary politics, economics and finance are changing rapidly. Effective joint efforts to combat global security challenges and ensure sustainable development have become increasingly prominent issues which are common to all States.

The establishment of an indivisible security space for all States without exception, cooperation and prosperity based on an agreed understanding of contemporary realities and the repudiation of attempts to guarantee one's own security at the expense of others' security are becoming priority tasks.

Humanity continues to face such threats and challenges as financial and economic instability, regional conflicts, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, terrorism, transnational crime, food shortages and climate change. The recent tragic events in Japan have confirmed the need for unified action by the international community to eliminate modern-day threats, including the development of measures to provide timely assistance to countries affected by natural and man-made disasters.

Expressing grave concern over the instability in North Africa and the Middle East, the Heads of State call for the earliest possible stabilization of the situation in the region. The SCO member States support the democratic development of the States in the region, taking into account their specific cultural and historical features. They note that internal conflicts and crises must be resolved exclusively by peaceful means through political dialogue. Action by the international community must be aimed at promoting national reconciliation and must be implemented strictly on the basis of international law, with full respect for independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, and upholding the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of States. In this context, the SCO member States underscore the need for the cessation of the armed confrontation in Libya, and the imperative of strict compliance by all parties concerned with Security Council resolutions 1970 (2011) and 1973 (2011).

The SCO member States stand ready to cooperate with other members of the international community in facilitating peace, stability and development at the regional and global levels, promoting the democratization of international relations and safeguarding the primacy of international law in world affairs.

IV

The Heads of State stress that a priority area in the international activities of SCO is strengthening and developing relations with the United Nations related to combating new threats and challenges, and promoting economic, social, humanitarian and cultural development.

As the only organization with universally recognized legitimacy, the United Nations plays a central role in maintaining peace and security in the world, promoting common development and deepening international cooperation. The SCO member States support strengthening the authority and enhancing the effectiveness of the United Nations through gradual reform, as well as the continued reinforcement of its capacity to respond appropriately and swiftly to challenges and threats.

The member States underscore that all parties concerned need to continue multilateral consultations in order to develop a comprehensive approach to reform of the United Nations and its Security Council that enjoys the widest possible support. In order to ensure cohesion among United Nations Member States, artificial time frames should not be set for the negotiation process and drafts should not be submitted prematurely for discussion, including those excluding certain aspects of the negotiation process and lacking, at a given stage, the support of the overwhelming majority of Member States.

The SCO member States consider the United Nations platform to be a fundamental part of their international counter-terrorist cooperation and deem it important to work together to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the norms of the universal counter-terrorism conventions and the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions.

V

The SCO member States call for strict observance of the provisions of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, whose purpose is to avert the

proliferation of nuclear weapons, allow further progress towards nuclear disarmament and guarantee the development of broad international cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

The establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia is an important element for ensuring regional peace and security, and could make a significant contribution towards strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime and enhancing the level of regional and international security. An effective step in that direction would be the signature by all nuclear Powers of the relevant Protocol to the Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty.

The member States believe that the unilateral and unlimited development of ballistic missile defence by a State or a small group of States could damage strategic stability and international security.

The member States support the use of outer space exclusively for peaceful purposes and underline the need to ensure the security of space activities and, within the framework of the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, to draw up a legally binding draft treaty on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space and the threat or use of force against outer space objects.

VI

The Heads of State note with satisfaction that, in the ten years since the establishment of SCO, the Organization has become an important part of the emerging partner network of multilateral associations in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Organization advocates maintaining peace, stability and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region and favours the establishment of an open, transparent and equitable security and cooperation architecture, based on the norms and principles of international law, non-alignment and taking due account of the legitimate interests of all parties.

VII

The main security priorities for SCO continue to be efforts to counter terrorism, separatism and extremism. Strongly condemning any such manifestations, SCO member States intend to undertake further joint work to implement the provisions of the Shanghai Convention on Combating Terrorism, Separatism and Extremism and the SCO Counter-Terrorism Convention.

The SCO member States have noted that transborder crime and illicit drug trafficking pose serious threats to contemporary society. The SCO counter-narcotics strategy for the period 2011-2016 is designed to strengthen practical cooperation so as to jointly prevent the negative impact of the drug threat on the SCO area and to ensure sustainable development in the region.

The emerging and real threats to information security are a source of grave concern. Cybercrime, which has reached global and transnational proportions, requires joint efforts and broad international cooperation. The SCO member States stand ready to step up their cooperation in the field of international information security.

In the light of global developments and threats, it is particularly important to establish the political, social and other conditions that might prevent a resurgence of extremist ideology and terrorist propaganda.

SCO supports the establishment of Afghanistan as an independent, neutral, peaceful and prosperous State. Achieving peace and stability in Afghanistan is a key factor in ensuring regional and international security. The SCO member States will continue to assist the friendly people of Afghanistan in their efforts to rebuild the country.

VIII

The Organization's most important purpose is to enhance the well-being and the quality of life of the peoples in SCO countries.

The SCO member States consider that the Organization should remain focused on implementing joint plans to overcome the consequences of the global financial and economic crisis and to ensure the sustainable and balanced growth of national economies. The SCO member States advocate further reform of international financial regulation, and strengthening policy coordination and cooperation in the area of financial regulation and supervision. Dialogue will continue on effectively ensuring the stability of member States' financial systems.

The SCO member States intend to promote joint large-scale projects in such areas as transport and communications, agribusiness, innovative and energy-saving technologies, trade and tourism. The creation of relevant funding mechanisms will be expedited. The introduction of these projects will significantly expand mutual trade, establish new markets, give a major impetus to regional development and diversify transport corridors between Asia and Europe.

The economic growth of SCO member States will be promoted through consistent execution of the action plan to implement the programme of multilateral trade and economic cooperation among the SCO member States, approved in Astana on 30 October 2008.

The Heads of State have called for a further increase in economic, trade and investment cooperation in the SCO region, including making use of the capacity of observer States and dialogue partners.

IX

The member States note the significance of cultural and humanitarian work by the Organization, the main purpose of which is to strengthen reciprocal relationships of good-neighbourliness, friendship and cooperation. In its subsequent work, the Organization will place a strong emphasis on strengthening cooperation in the areas of culture, environmental protection, science, technology and innovation, health, tourism and sport.

Continued cooperation to counter threats from natural and man-made disasters is also important.

X

The Organization will continue to prioritize cooperation in the areas of security, the economy and the promotion of public welfare. Building on the

achievements of previous years, the member States intend to continue to strengthen cooperation in a spirit of mutual trust, mutual advantage, equality, mutual consultations, respect for cultural diversity and the desire for joint development. They will work together to implement all the basic purposes and principles of SCO core documents.

On the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Organization, we, the Heads of States members of SCO, hereby declare that SCO will effectively achieve its goals and objectives in order to maintain peace, stability and prosperity in the SCO region.

(*Signed*) **Hu** Jintao
President
People's Republic of China

(*Signed*) Nursultan A. **Nazarbayev**
President
Republic of Kazakhstan

(*Signed*) Roza **Otunbaeva**
President
Kyrgyz Republic

(*Signed*) Dmitry A. **Medvedev**
President
Russian Federation

(*Signed*) Emomali **Rahman**
President
Republic of Tajikistan

(*Signed*) Islam A. **Karimov**
President
Republic of Uzbekistan

Astana, 15 June 2011